

**TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2015  
SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM – 8:00AM  
MINUTES**

Members present: Town Manager Peter B. Elwell, Fire Chief Mike Bucossi, Public Works Director Steve Barrett, Police Chief Mike Fitzgerald, and Planning Director Rod Francis.

Selectboard member present: Donna Macomber.

Other staff members present: Assistant Town Manager Patrick Moreland and Police Captain Mark Carignan.

Others present: Louise Zak, Kathleen White, James Banslaben, Katelin Brewer-Colie (by telephone), and others who did not sign the attendance sheet.

Town Manager Peter Elwell called the meeting to order at 8:10am.

Approve Minutes – September 17, 2015.

**MOTION BY STEVE BARRETT, AND SECONDED BY MIKE BUCOSS, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Public Participation

James Banslaben said a dense fog cloud moved over the Brattleboro Kiln Dry recently and he expressed concern that the heavy fog may not allow smoke to be released properly through the smoke stack.

Louise Zak suggested that the Traffic Calming Plan may be an appropriate vehicle to address flashing lights or cycled lights on Main Street. She discussed her driving experiences while the lights were recently on flash mode during the sidewalk reconstruction and suggested reviewing models in other towns to possibly come up with creative solutions. She also noted that a new pedestrian crossing sign on Elliot Street by the Restless Rooster was set in the sidewalk at face height and she was concerned that a pedestrian may run into the sign. She also mentioned missing bolts that were sticking up on a plate at the threshold of the parking garage on Elliot Street. There was a brief discussion by the Committee.

Kathleen White, from Safe Streets, reported on recent activities of the group. She said that letters were sent to local businesses offering reflective leg bands for sale and distribution. She also said that Safe Streets received a \$250 donation from AARP to purchase more reflective leg bands. She said that Safe Streets would have a table at the November Gallery Walk to distribute reflective gear and look for more volunteers. She also said that a Pass With Care Campaign was underway and that lawn signs were being distributed asking drivers to be careful if they saw bicyclists. White then mentioned an electric bike demonstration that was scheduled on Tuesday at 4:45pm in front of the State office building.

Monthly Report on Pedestrian and Bicycle Incidents – Chief Fitzgerald reported there had been a total of 62 accidents this month involving motor vehicles, and of those 51 sustained property damage only, 8 involved personal injuries, 1 involved a bike with no injuries, and 2 involved pedestrians with 1 injury. He said one pedestrian accident took place in front of the hospital where a motorist struck a pedestrian in the crosswalk, the victim was treated for non-life threatening injuries, the driver was issued a ticket for failure to yield to a pedestrian, and a form was sent to the Department of Motor Vehicles with a request for a re-evaluation exam of the operator. He said the second pedestrian accident took place at the intersection of Maple and Canal Streets, where a pedestrian motioned for the vehicle to proceed but another pedestrian stepped into the crosswalk and was struck by the vehicle. He said there were no injuries, the pedestrian denied medical attention, and warning citations were issued. He said that the bike accident took place on Marlboro Road where a pedestrian walking a bike stepped in front of the motorist to cross the road. The motorist swerved to avoid the pedestrian, the pedestrian said he did not see the car, and no injuries were reported although there was major damage to the vehicle. There was a brief discussion by the Committee.

### Traffic Calming Plan Safety Action Items

*Wilson's Woods "Blind Person" Sign* – Barrett said that Public Works received two calls regarding a blind person living in the Wilson's Woods development. He said that DPW investigated the matter and determined that a sign was appropriate, so a sign had been installed. There was no discussion by the Committee.

*Push Button Signals at Canal Street Intersections with Oak Grove Avenue and Clark Avenue* – Barrett reported that a pedestrian push button device was installed last week at the intersection of Canal Street and Oak Grove Avenue. He said there were plans to install another device at the Clark Avenue intersection with Canal Street. He said that with funding assistance from Brattleboro Memorial Hospital and the AARP grant, there were funds in the Traffic Safety line item of DPW's budget to purchase and install another such device and Barrett asked the Committee for its recommendation about a location to install a third device. He discussed the memo that he provided to the Committee with five suggested locations. There was substantial discussion by the Committee about the suggested locations. Kathleen White voiced her opinion about dangers at the Greenleaf Street and Creamery Bridge locations. Louise Zak said there was a critical need for the devices at both places. Katelin Brewer Colie, from Local Motion, spoke about crash data at the various locations. Moreland and Bucossi spoke about their experiences near the 7-11 Store (Greenleaf Street). Elwell asked Barrett to contact The Retreat to discuss joint efforts to improve the Linden Street crossing. The Committee agreed there were needs to improve safety at both the Greenleaf Street and Creamery Bridge locations but there were not enough funds at this time to address both locations, so the Creamery Bridge location should be addressed first with the Greenleaf Street location to follow when it was possible.

### **MOTION BY ROD FRANCIS TO INVESTIGATE INSTALLING RRP's (PEDESTRIAN PUSH BUTTON SIGNAL) ON WESTERN AVENUE AT CREAMERY BRIDGE.**

Elwell asked whether the motion was to "investigate" the location or to install the device. Barrett confirmed that DPW had investigated the five suggested locations and each location was appropriate and possible.

### **REVISED MOTION BY ROD FRANCIS, AND SECONDED BY MIKE BUCOSSİ, TO INSTALL A PEDESTRIAN PUSH BUTTON SIGNAL AT THE CREAMERY BRIDGE ON WESTERN AVENUE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Collaboration with Local Motion – Update. Katelin Brewer-Colie, from Local Motion, was present by telephone. She suggested that the VTrans' Transportation Alternative Grant may be a possibility to assist financially with pedestrian push buttons that were just discussed. She introduced herself and said that she was part of the Technical Assistance Program at Local Motion to work with communities to improve walking and biking safety. She said it was her goal to work collaboratively with the Town to improve the existing Traffic Calming Plan (TCP) and the process by which to implement traffic calming measures and for citizens to report concerns. She reviewed portions of her memo dated September 25, 2015, including other communities' plans and methods. There was some discussion by the Committee. It was generally agreed that improvements to the Traffic Calming Plan (or Program) should include a vision with better structure with less rigidity. The planning flowchart adopted by Clive, Iowa (pages 8-9 in Brewer-Colie's memo) was generally agreed by the Committee as a model to follow in order to tailor a program for Brattleboro. Elwell suggested that Brewer-Colie continue to work with Hannah O'Connell to revise Brattleboro's existing TCP and provided suggested redline changes to the Traffic Safety Committee for review in a month or two.

Other Business – None.

There was no further business.

**ELWELL ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 9:21 AM.**